

ARGENTINE - INUTILIZADO CARPET PERFORATION

Terry Wood

For some years I have wondered what was the significance of the carpet die found on Argentine stamps. I had parts of the die on a few individual stamps but in December 2000 I acquired a sheet of 20 pesos stamps.

From this sheet it appears that it was first folded in two and then perforated five times with a two wide die. The stamps were also pen cancelled across the width of the sheet by a single line.

There being no articles on the INUTILIZADO perforation in our Society Bulletins, our librarian found the information had been published in the American *Perfins Bulletin* in 1977. The information here is taken from an article by Walter B.L.Bose in their Bulletin, Nov-Dec 1977 and a previous article, writer unknown, in June 1977.

It seems that the perforation was used by the Postal Authorities of Argentina in Buenos Aires between 1900 and 1931. The rough translation of the word INUTILIZADO is 'rendered useless'. That is, stamps rendered useless for anything other than the purpose for which they had already been used. INUTILIZADO cannot be classed as a perfin - it being more a cancellation or annulation of postal stamps. These were postage stamps used for the payment of bulk mailing of newspapers. The stamps were affixed on the receipt document and the post office clerk "cancelled" them with the INUTILIZADO perforator. In this case, the perforation would be through the whole receipt. The whole sheets of stamps which were perforated would be bought by the newspaper proprietors and presented by the editors of newspapers and periodicals for payment of their duties - monthly postage at bulk rates.

The INUTILIZADO perforator was also used by the Post Office for Telegraphs and payment of rental of Post Office boxes.

On the documents of payment for bulk posting by the newspapers, the high values are common and the lower values are scarce. Payments in fractions of 'pesos' is rare.

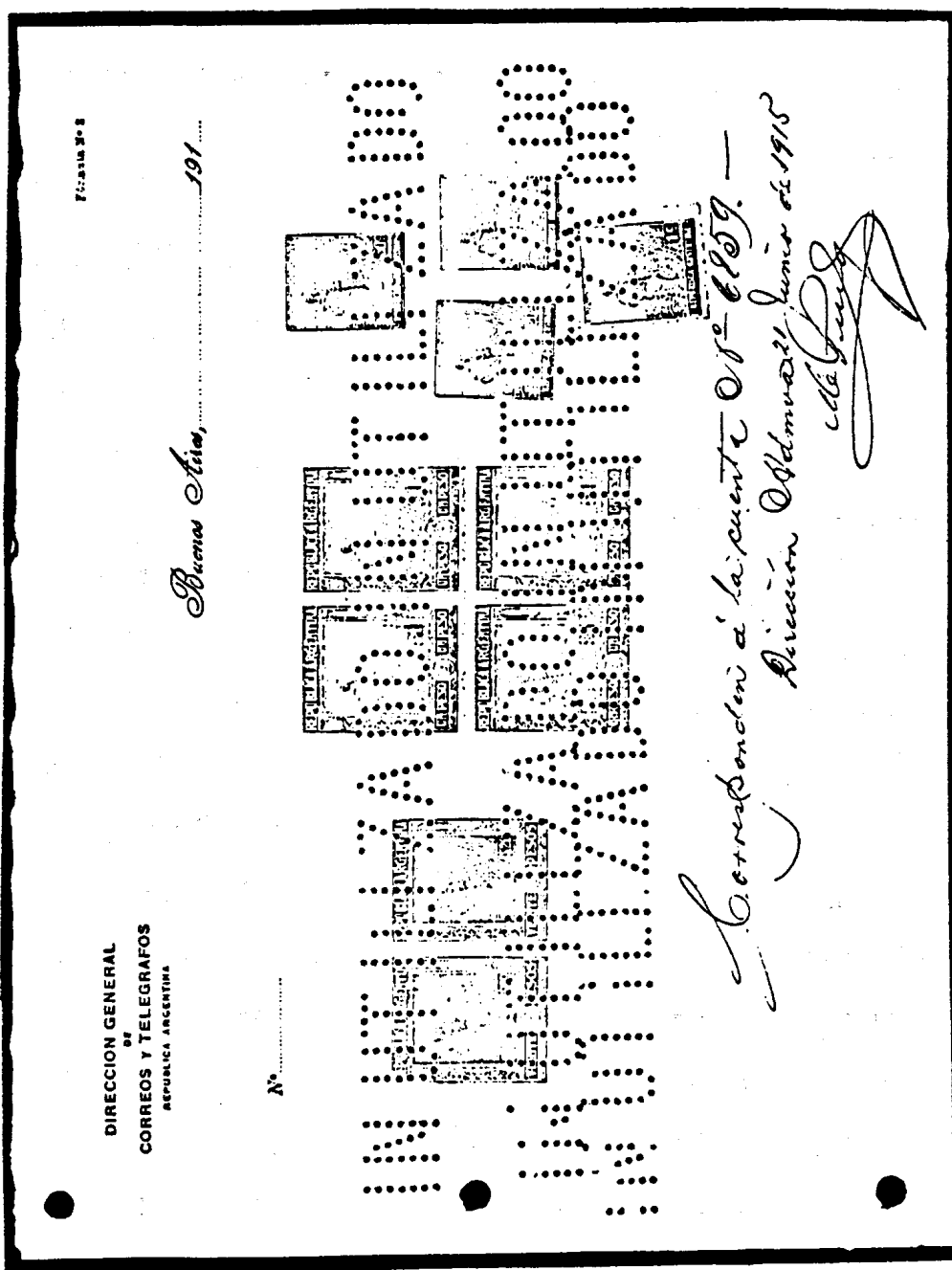


Illustration of front and back of part of the sheet of perfined Argentine stamps.

